

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 00402 171112Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7281
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
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AMEMBASSY GABORONE
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 0402

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: MULDER HINTS AT RELEASE OF DETAINEES IN PUSH FOR COMMUNITY
COUNCILS

1. THE MINISTER OF THE NEWLY RENAMED DEPARTMENT OF PLURAL
RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT - NE BANTU AFFAIRS -, CONNIE MULDER,
STATED YESTERDAY (FEB 15) THAT BEFORE "SATISFACTORY"
BY-ELECTIONS FOR THE SOWETO COMMUNITY COUNCILS COULD BE HELD,
THE FUTURE OF DR. NTATHO MOTLANA AND OTHER COMMITTEE OF TEN
MEMBERS WOULD HAVE TO BE "CLARIFIED". ACCORDINGLY, MULDER
REVEALED HE HAD
MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, JIMMY KRUGER,
OVER THEIR RELEASE FROM DETENTION. MULDER ADDED KRUGER WAS
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PAGE 02 JOHANN 00402 171112Z

"CONSIDERING" THE MATTER.

2. MULDER SAID HE HOPED A "GESTURE" FROM THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE,
ALONG WITH HIS OWN EFFORTS, MIGHT BE SEEN BY THE PEOPLE OF
SOWETO AS A "SIGNAL THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO COOPERATE WITH
THOSE PEOPLE". MULDER INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS NOT
PREPARED TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. MOTLANA AS IT WAS NOT

HIS POLICY TO HOLD TALKS WITH "SELF-APPOINTED LEADERS".

3. MULDER INDICATED THAT HIS GESTURE TOWARD THE COMMITTEE OF TEN WAS AIMED AT GAINING LEGITIMACY FOR THE COMMUNITY COUNCILS. AS A FURTHER ACT IN THIS DIRECTION, MULDER SAID HE WOULD RATHER NOT EXERCISE HIS PREROGATIVE OF APPOINTING MEMBERS TO UNCONTESTED SEATS (19 SEATS WILL REMAIN UNFILLED AFTER THIS SATURDAY, FEB 18 ELECTION) AND, CONSEQUENTLY, WOULD AMEND COMMUNITY COUNCILS ACT TO ALLOW FOR BY-ELECTIONS TO FILL REMAINING SEATS. MULDER STATED "I REALLY WANT AN ELECTED COUNCIL IN SOWETO, WHICH I CAN MEET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO LEARN THE PEOPLE'S MOST URGENT GRIEVANCES SO THAT I CAN GIVE THEM SPECIFIC ATTENTION IN MY FIVE-YEAR PLAN".

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MULDER'S ATTITUDE REPRESENTS A WELCOME SHIFT FROM THE INTRANSIGENCE OF M.C. BOTHA, IT IS STILL DOUBTFUL WHETHER MULGER'S WISH FOR AN ELECTED COUNCIL WILL ATTRACT SUCH BLACK ACTIVIST CANDIDATES AS MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF TEN, EVEN IF RELEASED.
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